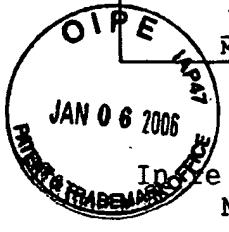


HFI 17W

I hereby certify that this correspondence, <u>16</u> pages, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 after receipt of a Final Office Action on the merits, but within two months of the Office Action date, on <u>Jan. 3rd, 2006</u>	
 Michael E. Carroll, Jr. Date of Signature	<u>1/3/06</u>

JAN 06 2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Melton et al.

Serial No.: 10/765,262

Filed: January 27, 2004

Title: Figure-Eight Preconnectorized Fiber Optic Drop Cables  
and Assemblies

) Attorney Docket: HE0217

) Art Unit: 2883

) Examiner: Wong, Eric K

DMK

3/29/06

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. sec. 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated November 3, 2005, the following amendment(s) and/or remark(s) are submitted. **Applicants respectfully request that this reply be entered into the record as a substantive reply to the outstanding Office Action.**